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IRASBURGH, VERMONT, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1865.

WHOLE NUMBER 516.

Laws of Vermont.

ANNUAL SESSION, A. D. 1865.

An act to establish the Vermont Reform School.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont.

Sec. 1. There shall be established, as hereafter provided, an institution for the discipline, correction and reformation of juvenile offenders, to be called the Vermont Reform School, to which shall be committed for discipline, correction and instruction, such persons not exceeding eighteen years of age as it is by this bill provided thus to commit.

Sec. 2. There shall be appointed annually by the Governor, by and with the advice of the Senate, a board of commissioners to consist of three members, one of them to be designated as the acting commissioner and the other two advisory commissioners. The acting commissioner shall receive besides board for himself and family, a salary of eight hundred dollars per annum to be paid quarterly, but no other fees, expenses or perquisites whatever. And the two advisory commissioners shall receive three dollars per diem, for the time actually employed in the discharge of their duties, with traveling expenses. The acting commissioner shall constantly reside upon the State farm, and give his whole time to the duties of his office. The whole board shall meet, at least, once quarterly; but no pay per diem, shall be paid to any advisory commissioner for more than fifty days in any one year; and the salary and pay per diem shall be paid out of the Treasury of the State, on the order of the Auditor of Accounts issued on the separate certificates of the commissioners. The said board of commissioners shall give such bonds in such amount and with such security as shall be approved by the Governor, said bond to be deposited with the State Treasurer. And in case of vacancy occurring in said board from any cause, it shall be filled by the Governor by appointment, and the persons so appointed shall hold office one year, or until others are appointed.

Sec. 3. The said commissioners are hereby authorized to purchase land, not exceeding two hundred acres, suitable for the site and the purposes of the said Reform School, to be called the State Farm, and so located within this State as shall in their judgment best meet the wants and subserve the interests of the said school, the costs of which lands shall not exceed six thousand dollars. Immediately upon the purchase of the said farm, and obtaining possession thereof, the said board of commissioners shall proceed to erect suitable buildings thereon for the residence of the acting commissioner, and the reception and accommodation of such male and female youths as it is provided in this act to commit to the Reform School; or in case buildings shall have been purchased with the land, to put them in proper repair, and fit them for the use and purposes of the said schools, and if need be, erect additional buildings. The buildings shall be arranged for the complete separation of the sexes, and their separation shall be strictly maintained.

Sec. 4. For the wages of assistants and employees in said Reform School; for salary and per diem commissioners; and for fuel, food, raiment and education for the inmates; for stock and implements for the farm, and furniture of buildings for the year ensuing, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, to be allowed by the Auditor of Accounts, who shall draw his order on the Treasurer, in favor of the acting commissioner, on his presenting proper vouchers of the amount of expense so incurred.

Sec. 5. Whenever any male or female under the age of eighteen years, shall be found guilty of any crime or offense against the laws of this State, the court in its discretion shall have power to sentence the respondent to the Vermont Reform School, and the Governor is hereby authorized at his discretion to commute the punishment of such convicts of the age fixed in this act, as now are or hereafter may be sentenced to or confined in the State Prison or any county jail; and remove them to said school, and the cost of such commitments, and removals shall be met in the same manner as is now provided by law for commitments to the State Prison; and the officer in charge of the person so to be committed, or removed, shall retain him in his custody, until he shall have received information from the acting commis-

sioner that there is room for the person so to be committed in said school.

Sec. 6. In all cases when received, said minor shall be under the control of the authorities of the said Reform School, and the said authorities shall at all times have power to apprentice them at their discretion, and it shall be their duty so to apprentice them whenever suitable opportunities shall offer, and they shall judge said minors suitable persons to be apprenticed.

Sec. 7. Any person that shall entice any youth detained upon the State farm to escape, or aid or abet him in escaping, or shall after his escape, knowing him to be a fugitive from said State farm harbor him, shall on conviction thereof be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, or confined in the county jail for a period not exceeding three months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 8. Said board of commissioners shall report annually to the Governor on or before the tenth day of October in each year. Said report shall contain full and detailed accounts of all payments made and moneys received, and of all the fiscal affairs of the said Reform School; its management, condition and wants, which the Governor shall have printed, and transmit to the Legislature with his annual message.

Sec. 9. When any male minor shall have been committed to the Reform School, and the commissioners shall find him incorrigible, or shall deem his continuance injurious to its management or discipline, they shall certify the same upon the mittimus by which he is held, and the mittimus with such certificate shall be returned to the county court, next to be held in the county where such minor shall have been committed or sentenced; whereupon said court, shall, in their discretion, either remit such minor to said Reform School for further and more severe discipline, or to the county jail or State Prison, to be there imprisoned for the remainder of the term for which said convict was sentenced. And the commissioners shall have power, with the approval of the Governor, to discharge any minor as reformed, whenever they shall become satisfied that his longer detention in said school shall be to the disadvantage or injury of said minor.

Sec. 10. This act shall take effect from its passage, and shall be under the control of all future Legislatures, to alter, amend or repeal.

Approved Nov. 9, 1865.

An act defining the duties of certain State Officers, and for the protection and benefit of the Treasury.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. The auditor of accounts of this State shall procure and examine all the papers, vouchers and statements of any and all kinds of disbursements made by any person for or on account of the State of Vermont from the first day of January, A. D. 1861, to the first day of January, A. D. 1866, and he shall arrange such vouchers for payments or disbursements in proper form, and place the same on file in his office, and for any and all expenses or disbursements made by an officer of this State, or any one acting by or under authority of this State or its officials in any way, so far as the said payments or expenditures may have been in any way appropriated or used to procure, furnish or provide, or in any form have been used to furnish money or means of any kind to aid and assist the General Government of the United States in furnishing or supplying itself with any kind of material used in the late war for the suppression of the southern States, or in any way expended in defending the frontier against invasion or raid from Canada; he shall obtain all the evidence if possible so to do, necessary to enable him to prepare and present a statement to the said General Government of the United States, of all such claims, with their proper vouchers. And it is hereby made the duty of said auditor to prepare such statement of these claims as soon as practicable, and present them and secure their payment if he can do so; but if such claims are not paid by said General Government of the United States upon presentation, said auditor of accounts is hereby instructed to obtain their adjustment if possible, and to have the same allowed by said General Government as a just claim due to the State of Vermont. It is further made the duty of said auditor of accounts to cause a statement of these claims to be prepared, in which he shall state in detail what has been paid or allowed, and what has been rejected, with the cause for such rejection.

Sec. 2. The Auditor of Accounts is hereby directed to prepare and forward to the selectmen of the several towns in this State, blanks in form and with printed instruction thereon for the following purpose, to wit: To ascertain the number of men furnished by each town in the United States during the late war, with their time of service, and the amount of money expended by such towns in procuring such men either as volunteers or drafted men; said returns to be made in detail, and returned to the Auditor of Accounts by such selectmen on or before the first day of April, 1866, with their certificate appended thereto of the correctness of such statement, and said Auditor of Accounts shall cause these certificates to be placed on file in his office, and shall prepare a statement of the same, specifying the town, and the number of men provided by each town, with the amount paid for such men, to be printed for the use of the next Legislature.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Quartermaster General of this State, by and with the advice and consent of the Governor, to arrange for sale of the grounds now owned by this State in the vicinity of the late hospital buildings in the town of Montpelier, for which the State has not immediate use, and with said hospital buildings now upon said grounds he shall cause to be sold both ground and buildings in such manner as in his opinion will be most conducive to the best interests of the State; and when so sold either in whole or in part, the funds shall be by said Quartermaster General paid to the Treasurer of the State, and a statement of such sale with the amount thereof, filed with the Auditor of Accounts. The Auditor of Accounts is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the State Treasurer for all needful expenses incurred in pursuance of this section, upon the presentation of proper vouchers for such expenses.

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The Auditor of Accounts shall cause to be paid to the Treasurer of this State any and all funds received from the said General Government of the United States as specified in this section, and receive said Treasurer's vouchers therefor. In the performance of the duties hereinbefore set forth, the Auditor of Accounts is authorized to employ such clerical assistance as may be necessary, and to be paid all needful expenses incurred by him, together with the sum of one thousand dollars for his personal services in addition to his salary as now provided by law, such payment to be made by the Treasurer of the State upon the approval of the Governor of said Auditor of Accounts' order for such payment. It is hereby made the duty of any and all persons to furnish the Auditor of Accounts with all papers as evidence of any kind in their possession to enable him to prepare the statements specified herein.

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Sec. 5. If any cashier shall neglect or refuse to make returns to any town in this State as provided in this act, he shall forfeit and pay to the treasurer of such town, for the benefit of such town, the sum of five hundred dollars to be recovered by an action on the case in the name of such treasurer, founded on this statute.

Sec. 6. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

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